

Declaration of Interest Form for GDC Council Members and Independent Governance Associates

Title: (Dr, Mr, Mrs, Ms, Prof): Ms
Full name: Laura Michele Simons
Assigned role with the GDC: Lay Council Member

Declaration:

I understand and take responsibility for acting in accordance with the [seven principles of public life](#) (the Nolan Principles). I understand that I must not receive any financial or non-financial benefit that is not explicitly authorised in my appointment letter and should not exert any influence to acquire any preferential treatment for myself or other connected persons.

Areas of interest	Details relating to you and/or a connected person (as set out in the GDC's Managing Interests Policy)
<p>Please provide details of all paid employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Executive positions• Full/Part-time employment• Consultancies• Self-employed• Directorships <p>Why? Decisions need to be taken in an open and transparent manner, therefore, Council Members and IGAs are required to declare positions so that any actual, potential and/or perceived conflicts of interest can be managed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working as a strategic communications and public relations consultant mostly in the non-profit sector. No clients connected to the GDC or its remit• Also a member of the Bar Standards Board's (BSB) Advisory Pool of Experts (APEX)

Areas of interest	Details relating to you and/or a connected person (as set out in the GDC's Managing Interests Policy)
<p>Please give details of all unpaid work, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles in organisations associated with healthcare • Public service offices • Roles held in local or national organisations • Trusteeships <p>Why? Decisions need to be taken in an open and transparent manner, therefore, Council Members and IGAs are required to declare positions so that any actual, potential and/or perceived conflicts of interest can be managed.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Please list all businesses you are involved in which have a direct contract with the GDC or are a potential contractor with the GDC.</p> <p>Why? Decisions need to be taken in an open and transparent manner, therefore, Council Members and IGAs are required to declare positions so that any actual, potential and/or perceived conflicts of interest can be managed.</p>	<p>None</p>

Areas of interest	Details relating to you and/or a connected person (as set out in the GDC's Managing Interests Policy)
<p>Do you have close personal ties with the GDC's Council Members, IGAs, Associates, advisers, directors or employees?</p> <p>Why? Council members and IGAs who have close ties with the GDC's advisors, directors or employees may be perceived as having an undue influence on decisions. These close personal ties must be declared so that any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest can be managed in an open and transparent manner.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY:</p> <p>All membership bodies and associations including political parties, pressure groups and professional bodies of which you are a member or are associated.</p> <p>Why? Council Members are free to engage in political activities or to maintain associations with professional organisations. Council members are required to declare such positions to give assurance that these do not conflict with the Council's statutory functions.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Any other conflicts not covered by the above?</p>	<p>None</p>

Council Members:

- I have read the Managing Interests Policy and confirm that the information provided below is complete and accurate. I acknowledge any changes in these declarations must be notified to the GDC as soon as practicable.
- I will update my form every 6 months and more frequently if any significant changes occur.
- I will, as soon as practicable but not more than five working days after, alert the Head of Governance/Executive Director, Legal and Governance or relevant Director if I meet the criteria for disqualification as set out in the GDC (Constitution) Order 2009 or the GDC (Constitution of Committees) Order 2009.

Independent Governance Associates (including independent Members of non-statutory Committees (ARC, FPC, RemNom) and Members of the Appointments Committee - SPC):

- I will update my register every 12 months and more frequently if any significant changes occur.
- I will, as soon as practicable but not more than five working days after, alert the Head of Governance/Executive Director, Legal and Governance or relevant Director if I meet the criteria for disqualification as set out in the GDC (Constitution) Order 2009 or the GDC (Constitution of Committees) Order 2009.

Signed: Laura M Simons

Date: 13/01/26

Reviewed by:

Date: 09.02.2026



Data Protection

- The information provided will be processed in accordance with data protection principles as set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The basis on which the GDC processes personal data in connection with employment is that the processing is necessary for the exercise of the GDC's statutory functions.
- Information about how the GDC will use and share the information you give us, the various rights you have in connection with any personal data about you that is held by the GDC, and how long we will keep your information for can be found in the privacy notice on our website at www.gdc-uk.org/privacy.